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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 12 March 1952

SUBJECT Volkspolizei Alert Unit at Suhl

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

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1. The Suhl Volkspolizei Alert unit (Vopo Bereitschaft) is an artillery and anti-aircraft unit. The quarters of the unit are in two barracks areas. In these quarters are billeted the entire staff, heavy weapons platoon, searchlight sections 1 and 2, motor transport section, and the 1st and 2nd batteries (Kommandos) of the unit.

2. Organization of Command and Staff:

Command: Leader: Vopo Commander August Schaefer
Political Commissar: VP Commander Willy Sauer
Deputy Leader: Vopo Oberrat (a Russian, name unknown)

Staff: Director: VP Commander Hans Beyer
Finance Office: a VP Rat
Subsistence Officer: VP Oberkommissar Franz Scherf
Clothing Officer: a VP Oberkommissar
Equipment Officer: a VP Oberkommissar
Arms Officer: A VP Oberkommissar
Transport Officer: a VP Oberkommissar
Operations Officer: a VP Oberrat
Training Officer: a VP Oberrat
Personnel Officer: a VP Oberrat
Chairman of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) Group: a VP Oberrat
Intelligence Officer: a VP Kommissar
Recorder: a VP Kommissar
Chief of Staff: a VP Oberkommissar
Medical Officer: a civilian doctor from the Suhl Polyclinic
Medical Service Office: a VP Kommissar

Staff Command Personnel:

Assistant to the Director: a VP Kommissar
A bookkeeper and a pay bookkeeper
A supply chief: a VP Meister
A chief cook and six cooks

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A clothing stores manager: a VP Meister
 A clothing stores record keeper: a VP Hauptwachtmeister
 An equipment custodian: a VP Meister
 An assistant to operations officer: a VP Meister
 An assistant to operations officer: a VP Meister
 Four assistants to personnel officer: VP Meisters
 Three sanitary personnel: VP Hauptwachtmeisters

3. Transport Section Personnel:

A transport service chief: a VP Oberkommissar
 A deputy chief: a VP Hauptwachtmeister
 A motor vehicle shop chief: a VP Meister
 A deputy chief: VP Hauptwachtmeister
 10 Chauffeurs: VP Hauptwachtmeisters

4. Searchlight Section Personnel:

Kommando-leader: a VP Oberkommissar
 Political officer: VP Oberkommissar
 Office work chief: VP Meister
 Squad leader: VP Hauptwachtmeister
 Squad political officer: VP Hauptwachtmeister

Each section has four squads of four men each (K1, K2, K3, K4). A supply and a weapons sergeant (Hauptwachtmeisters) are also attached to the section. The searchlight sections are attached directly to the Staff.

5. Heavy Weapons Platoon personnel:

Platoon leader: a VP Kommissar
 Political officer: VP Kommissar
 Four squads of 10 men each. Squad leaders and political officers are Hauptwachtmeisters.

6. Kommando (Battery) Organization:

Kommando leader: a VP Oberrat
 Political officer: VP Oberrat
 Deputy leader: a VP Rat
 Training leader: VP Oberkommissar
 Operations leader: VP Oberkommissar
 Supply leader: VP Oberkommissar
 Office leader: VP Kommissar
 Weapons keeper: VP Meister
 Supply sergeant: VP Meister

The battery has four platoons of 38 men each. The platoon leader of the 1st platoon is a VP Oberkommissar, while the others are Kommissars. Platoon political officers are Kommissars. A platoon consists of four squads of nine men each, comprising a squad leader (VP Meister), squad political officer (VP Meister) and seven men (K1-K7).

7. Weapons and Equipment:

Transport Section

1. Opel-Kapitan car
3. VW (Volkswagen) jeeps
3. Opel-Olympia car
2. Horch army trucks

Complete shop equipment with tires and spare parts; also gasoline supply tanks with a capacity of about 10,000 liters.

Searchlight Sections 1 and 2: Each section has four searchlight (80 cm., with a power set, BMW 2, 5 lt.) and one Horch army truck.

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Heavy Weapons Platoon: Armed with eight very heavy twin-barreled machine guns.

20. Kommandos 1 and 2: Each Kommando has 16 (sic) 37 mm anti-aircraft guns with mounts, four-wheeled carriages and trackers. Four Horch army trucks are assigned to each Kommando.

8. Hand weapons are as follows:

	Pi. 7.65	Pi. 0.8	Pi. 38	Karb. 98	MP 38	MP 44
Staff	45	12	5	6	2	-
Searchlight 1	2	8	-	24	4	2
Searchlight 2	2	6	2	26	2	2
Staff Platoon	2	4	4	32	8	4
Transport Section	4	-	10	-	-	-
Kommando 1	7	8	32	102	10	-
Kommando 2	7	8	32	102	10	-
Total	69	46	85	292	36	8

9. T/O and Actual Strength in Barracks Area

	<u>T/O</u>			<u>Actual Strength</u>		
	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCO's</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCO's</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
Staff	21	16	6	19	18	6
Transport section	-	14	-	-	11	3
Heavy Weapons platoon	2	8	32	2	7	30
Searchlight 1	2	11	16	2	9	18
Searchlight 2	2	11	16	2	10	17
Kommando 1	15	34	112	11	31	119
Kommando 2	15	34	112	13	32	116
Total	57	128	294 479	49	118	309 476

10. A major maneuver in conjunction with other units is planned for the spring of 1952. The battle exercises are to be carried out on a Soviet training ground. Until then, exercises are being held in the neighborhood of the barracks area.

Sketch Map

11. The accompanying sketch map shows the barracks ground and buildings of the Suh. Volkspolizei Alert troops. An explanation of the symbols shown on the map is given below:

- W1- Administration building. Contains the staff, dining hall, club room, canteen, mess room and store room.
- W- Main guardhouse. Contains guardroom, guest room and cells.
- F1- Gate, and guard post.
- A, B- Quarters of the 1st Kommando. Contains orderly room, mess room, clothing storeroom for the Bereitschaft, armory and men's quarters.
- C, D- Quarters of the 2nd Kommando. Orderly room, mess room, equipment storeroom for the Bereitschaft, armory, and quarters.
- M1, M2, M3, M4- Ammunition magazines.
- E- Quarters of the Searchlight sections and the transport section.
- F- Quarters of the Staff Platoon. Contains orderly room, armory, mess hall, and living quarters for officers and men.
- G1- Ordnance and car hall of the 1st Kommando.
- G2- Ordnance and car hall of the Searchlight and Transport sections, workshop and storage for spare parts.

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T- Gasoline tanks
R- Guard post at entrance
1-8- Living quarters for officers and non-commissioned officers,
especially staff officers.

Enclosure: 1 sketch map, 1 page

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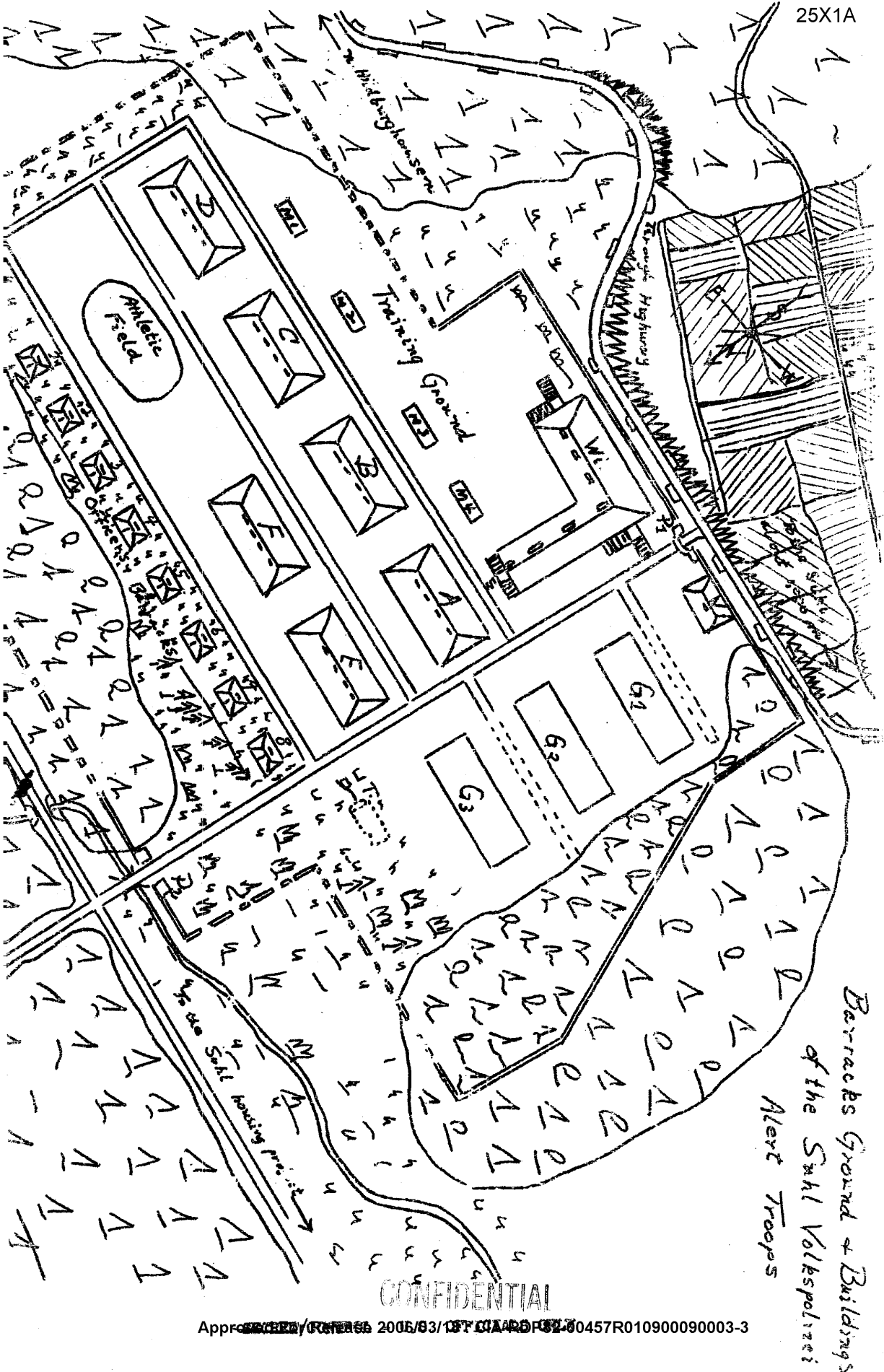
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